



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, April 2, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (12-1450)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Geneva Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Absent: Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg, Commissioner Sandra Rudnick and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Call to order. (12-1282)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:07 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of April 2, 2012, meeting attendees. (12-1283)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda for April 2, 2012. (12-1284)

On motion of Commissioner Franzen, seconded by Commissioner Murray unanimously carried (Commissioner Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 19, 2012. (12-1285)

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Murray, unanimously carried (Commissioner Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

4. Chair's report by Patricia Curry, Chair, for April 2, 2012. (12-1286)

Chair Curry presented a verbal report on the following:

- **The 2011/2012 Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests are due from Commission members. Commission Staff has copies of forms for Commissioners' completion.**
- **Carl Washington, Probation Department, Division Chief, Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Affairs Services, informed the Chair that he will be attending the Commission meetings.**
- **Joseph Devall, Director, Kinship In Action, Community Coalition (Coalition) informed the Chair that a representative from the Coalition will be attending the Commission meetings. A representative was at the meeting.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Realignment Presentation
- Cynthia McCoy-Miller, Administrative Deputy III, Bureau of Finance and Administration, DCFS
 - Crystal Huang, Departmental Finance Manager III, Fiscal Operations Division, DCFS (12-1287)

Chair Curry distributed a handout from a web seminar hosted by the John Burton Foundation, Alliance for Children's Rights, and Children Now on child welfare realignment, outlining the implications when the responsibilities for certain programs will be shifted from the state to the counties and voiced concern over the impact the realignment will have towards the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation (Probation).

Cynthia McCoy-Miller, Administrative Deputy III, Bureau of Finance and Administration, DCFS, distributed and presented a slide presentation on Realignment, providing the background of the 1991 Realignment and the current 2011 Realignment. Ms. Miller went over the following topics detailed in the handout:

- **1991 Realignment**
- **2011 Realignment:**
 - **Funding Model**
 - **Programs Realigned**
 - **Account Structure under Health and Human Services**
 - **Realignment Facts**
 - **Summary of DCFS Realigned programs**

Ms. McCoy-Miller further added the following efforts of DCFS in response to the Realignment:

- **Close monitoring of the revenue sources that shifted to local government for program funding.**
- **Continued collaboration with the Chief Executive Office on policy changes.**
- **Monthly conference calls with the State to advocate on behalf of the interest of DCFS.**
- **Fiscal team monitoring**
- **Meeting projections**
- **Crystal Huang, Departmental Finance Manager III, Fiscal Operations Division, DCFS, attends the monthly County Welfare Director's Association Fiscal Workgroup and reports back.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. McCoy-Miller responded with the following:

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- **The Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver) is included as part of the Realignment. The terms and conditions of the Waiver are 2% growth and continued flexibility to retain savings that are carried over.**
 - **DCFS is closely monitoring AB 12 to ensure that the State factors in the fiscal impact that AB 12 will have on the County as part of the Realignment base will be taken into account.**
 - **It is premature to determine the long term effects Realignment will have on the County. The first year of implementation is consistent with the projections; however, the second year projections show an expenditure exceeding the Department's allocated resources.**

Philip L. Browning, Director, DCFS further added the following:

- **Although Realignment is intended to provide local government with flexibility and fiscal authority, the challenge for the Child Welfare System is that many of its programs are bound by federal mandates which do not change with the realignment of responsibilities.**
- **An additional \$200 million was proposed to be added to the Realignment base for the Child Welfare System.**

Crystal Huang, Departmental Finance Manager III, Fiscal Operations Division, DCFS added the following:

- **The 2012 Realignment projected over a five-year period is a net increase of \$200 million for the Child Welfare System. It has not been determined when or how this amount will be allocated.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP UPDATES

- 6. 8th Annual California Conference on Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss**
 - **Martha Trevino-Powell, Commission Representative (12-1378)**

Commissioner Trevino-Powell reported the following:

- **The conference focus was on the special needs of children who survive family violence and how best to aid families recovering from a**

traumatic experience. Each session provided presentations from child grief experts, brain experts, trauma therapists, and school professionals that work in areas of child grief and loss. During the sessions attended, individuals shared their traumatic experiences and how they navigated through their emotions. The victims of trauma shared in common an incredible capacity for resilience to navigate beyond their experience. The following sessions were attended:

- Preventing Pathways to Violence: Unresolved Grief and Loss
- Fostering Resilience and Making Sense of Separation and Loss
- The Anatomy of Music and How To Use It in Your Practice

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Commissioner Trevino-Powell stated that she found the common factor among the survivors of trauma to be a strong will to fight through their grief and strive for a better life.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

7. Department of Mental Health, System Leadership Team (SLT)
- Adelina Sorkin, Commission Representative (12-1377)

Commissioner Sorkin reported the following:

- The majority of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding is being spent on adults.
- Governor Jerry Brown has suspended Proposition 63, enacted by voters establishing the "Mental Health Services Fund" to fund specified County mental health programs and the AB 39 Special Education Funding. This bill requires the State Department of Mental Health to allocate funds to County Mental Health Departments for the purpose of providing special education services. The Bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction and County Mental Health Directors to jointly convene a technical working group to develop a transitional program that transfers the responsibilities associated with providing Special Education Services from County Mental Health Departments to State Department of Education.
- Mr. Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health (DMH) informed

Commissioner Sorkin that funding will no longer be administered through the DMH. School Districts will be responsible for the distribution of funds.

- **The School District is not interested in dealing with children on medication, and Residential Schools. DCFS has informed DMH that funding for the 500 children in Residential Schooling will cease on July 1, 2012.**
- **DMH has been working with the faith-based community. Commissioner Sorkin suggested that DCFS reach out to the faith based community as well.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

8. Relative Caregivers Workgroup

- **Patricia Curry, Commission Representative
(Carried over from the meetings of 3-5-12 and 3-19-12) (12-1015)**

Chair Curry reported that for the past year she has been working closely with the Community Coalition in efforts to improve the Relative Care Resource Centers with a focus on identifying new locations for the centers that are more accessible to families in need of resources and in areas that have an increased need for services. She provided the following updates:

- **The Workgroup has been receiving updates from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) on the Workgroup's efforts.**
- **A Kinship Center will be placed in Antelope Valley due to the increase of relative care providers in the area.**
- **Smaller satellite locations have been identified in Long Beach, Pacoima, and Pomona and are expected to be operating in the near future.**
- **The Workgroup is working towards having a Systems Navigator placed in the Kinship North Resource Center to direct relatives to the appropriate services.**

"Relative Care" will be discussed further at the Commission meeting scheduled for May 21, 2012.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

- 9. Chief Executive Office (CEO),
Self Sufficiency Committee**
- Patricia Curry, Commission Representative (12-1018)

Chair Curry provided the following report:

- **Transitional Housing Program- (THP) HUD Project offers furnished apartments and paid utilities for former foster youth that are:**
 - Homeless or soon-to-be homeless due to no other housing option
 - 18 through 21 years old
 - Able to work and live responsibly with another resident
- **Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) is a transitional placement opportunity for foster care and probation youth ranging from 16 to 18 years old and currently in the child welfare system. The following is criteria of the program:**
 - 3 Providers
 - Providers are Licensed
 - Receive \$3,400 per month
- **Transitional Housing Program Plus (THPP) is a transitional housing placement opportunity for young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 years old, who emancipated from the child welfare or probation systems. The program criteria for service eligibility is:**
 - Youth that have left foster care providers are eligible
 - Providers are certified not licensed
 - Receive \$2,200 per month
- **Transitional Housing Program Plus FC (THPPFC) is for youth over 18 years old that have opted to stay in the system under AB12. AB12 “California Fostering Connections to Success” allows foster care for**

eligible youth to extend beyond age 18 and up to age 21. Eligible foster youth are designated as "non-minor" dependents and will be entitled to various foster placement options after age 18. AB12 also creates a new federal Kin-Gap program to coincide with California's existing Kin-Gap program which is state and county-funded.

Chair Curry informed the Commission she will prepare a letter to the Board of Supervisors, Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department exploring the feasibility of the THPPFC model and bring the letter back to the Commission for consideration and approval.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

V. DCFS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10. DCFS Director's Report by Philip L. Browning, Director, DCFS for April 2, 2012. (12-1288)

Director Browning reported the following:

- The California State Auditor's performance report for 2009-2010 did not reflect DCFS in a positive position in the agency's handling of child abuse and neglect allegations. DCFS is working through the cases cited in the report to determine if there was any negligence. There are additional audit reports that are forthcoming. DCFS has addressed the audit reports' findings in its Strategic Plan.
- Assembly Member Jim Beall Jr., Chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care is holding a special hearing on Foster Care on Wednesday, April 4, 2012. The hearing will take place at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Service in Los Angeles. Commission staff has distributed an invitation to the hearing to all Commission members.
- DCFS currently has a number of staff vacancies at the executive level available for recruitment. Notices for these vacant positions have been sent to National Child Welfare organizations and to directors of public agencies.
- DCFS is participating in the Interdepartmental Council on Homelessness initiative that was established through the Board of Supervisors to coordinate the County's efforts to end homelessness.

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- **DCFS continues to work with a consultant on the development of its Strategic Plan and on the potential reorganization of the Department.**
 - **DCFS will be launching the Quality Service Review (QSR) Project with the Katie A., Core Practice Model being implemented at the DCFS Compton office. The Katie A. panel attends quarterly sessions held at Los Angeles Superior Court. Director Browning suggested Commissioners attend and will provide a schedule of the upcoming sessions.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- **In an effort to improve staff continuity at DCFS offices with a high rate of turnover, employee requests to transfer to different locations are being closely evaluated. DCFS is working on exploring the option of realigning caseloads to remedy concerns of stability of caseworker assignments.**
- **DCFS received a waiver from the State that allows 60 days for a determination of cases. DCFS performance of extensive risk assessment, increased mitigation, and increased efforts to keep children in their home has caused the allotted timeframe to be exceeded. The cases that have surpassed the 60 days are cases with situations where the child has remained with the parent during the evaluation. Staff is also working on improving practices of closing cases in a timely manner.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. **Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1293)**

There were no matters posted.

Public Comment

12. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1294)**

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Announcements

- 13.** Announcements for the meeting of April 2, 2012. (12-1295)

There were none.

Adjournment

- 14.** Adjournment for the meeting of April 2, 2012. (12-1296)

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:00 p.m.